



FIG. 1.—HABITAT OF THE WILD PINEAPPLE (*ANANAS* SP.; S. P. I. NOS. 56851 AND 56852)

The origin of the cultivated pineapple is obscure. The Spaniards found it growing in the gardens of the Indians when they reached tropical America at the end of the fifteenth century. It seems probable that the cultivated varieties were derived from one or more of the wild forms which are still found in the central part of Brazil. The environmental conditions under which one of these forms occurs is shown in the above reproduction of a photograph taken by Professor Rolfs near Vicosa, in the State of Minas Geraes, at an altitude of about 650 meters (approximately 2,130 feet)

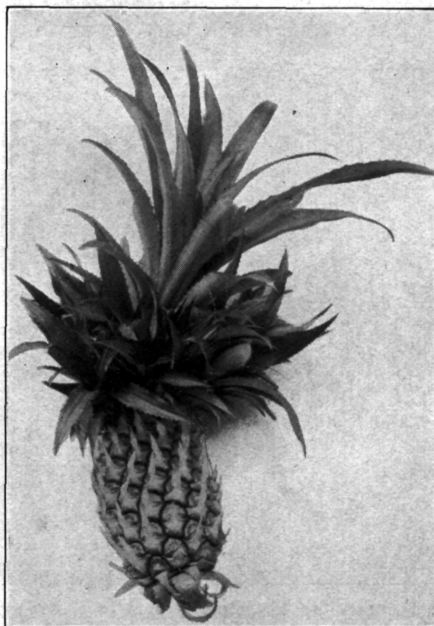


FIG. 2.—A WILD PINEAPPLE FROM CENTRAL BRAZIL (*ANANAS* SP.; S. P. I. NOS. 56851 AND 56852)

Plant breeders occupied with the production of new pineapple varieties will be interested in this wild form sent from the State of Minas Geraes by Professor Rolfs. The fruits, which are about 6 inches long and 4 inches in diameter, are whitish green, dull green, or nearly red; they have whitish flesh of acid flavor. It seems possible that this form may be the wild prototype of some of the cultivated pineapples; it occurs abundantly on the rolling plains of central Brazil. (Photographed by P. H. Rolfs, Vicosa, Minas Geraes, Brazil)